

### Car Sharing Program Expands to Suburbs

**By Roz Varon**

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The popular I-Go car sharing program is expanding to the suburbs. Evanston is the first location outside Chicago to jump onboard.

Car sharing has now come to the North Shore. Evanston was chosen because of its rich transportation network and car sharing is meant to supplement public transit.

"Car sharing would be a great fit here because it would give people access to cars to they can do things that need to be done by automobile without increasing the rate of car ownership," said Sharon Feigon, CEO, I-Go.

I-Go started as a pilot program in Chicago two years ago. It has now grown to include 1,000 members.

"I've learned it's been a success in Chicago; you know it's gonna be a greater success in

Evanston," said Mayor Lorraine Morton, Evanston.

The cost saving aspect of I-Go is a big plus in the program. According to AAA Motor Club, the average cost to own and operate a car in the Chicago area is \$6,700 a year.

But according to I-Go officials, the car sharing program, combined with public transit adds up to only \$2,300 a year. I-Go members pay one-time \$25 application fee and an annual \$50 membership fee. The only other cost is \$6 an hour and 50-cents a mile usage. I-Go covers gas, maintenance, insurance and has a 24/7 call center.

"We have in our own community the opportunity to reduce fuel usage, to reduce the cost to consumers significantly, to reduce congestion, to reduce pollution and in a way that's a win, win, win for everybody involved," said Rep. Jan **Schakowsky**, (D) Illinois.

I-Go uses smart card technology. Members use a key card to unlock the car and the keys are stored in the car. A pin is used to start the vehicle.

The next location for I-Go car sharing will be in the West Loop. That is scheduled to begin next month.

If you'd like more information on the I-Go car sharing program, visit [http://www.house.gov/htbin/leave\\_site?ln\\_url=http://www.i-go-cars.org](http://www.house.gov/htbin/leave_site?ln_url=http://www.i-go-cars.org)